

Towards safer food imports

All edible products coming into the country will now be vetted from India itself

Rajesh Rai

Food and agricultural products Bhutanese import from India will now come under the radar of Export Inspection Council (EIC) of India and Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) to ensure quality and safety.

MoU

This was agreed yesterday with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two regulatory bodies. The EIC director, Dr SK Saxena, said EIC will issue certificates of origin and health on food products exported to Bhutan. "The MoU will play a very important role to ensure consumer safety and have fair trade practices," he said.

Certificate of origin gives the assurance that the product is manufactured in India, and the certificate of health ensures the safety requirement of the importing country's regulatory authority. "You needn't take time in inspection testing and certification again, because it's a duplication of work, because once it's certified by the EIC, it means everything is taken care of."

Like BAFRA in Bhutan, which looks into the domestic import and export, he said, India has food safety authority for import in the ministry of health, and EIC in the ministry of commerce for export. "EIC's mandate is to check if the products moving out of India is meeting the importing country's requirement," Dr SK Saxena said.



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Dr SK Saxena
Director
EIC

Importing country's requirements include safety, labeling, and packaging. With more than 85 percent of food items imported from India, according to BAFRA officials, the MoU signing comes as a great relief for Bhutan.

Bhutanese authority can report any non-compliance to the EIC, which will then investigate and ensure that it is not repeated.

The second important aspect of the MoU is the technical cooperation, where exchange of experts, training of staff in accreditation regulation and certification system will be done.

Meanwhile, BAFRA officials said the authority was trying to seek EIC's support and collaboration through an MoU for a long time. "We're very happy today to be successful in our efforts," BAFRA official Jamyang Phuntsho said.

The agreement, according

to him, covers all food and agricultural products imported from India. Ranging from fresh fruits and vegetables, cereals, pre-packed foods, oil and spices, Bhutan even imports meat, fish, and poultry and dairy

products from India.

BAFRA will now notify all the list of food commodities to be carried by EIC, based on the commodity risk analysis and national priority.

BAFRA is also looking for-

ward in collaborating with EIC for certification of some products to be exported to third countries through certification schemes, since the authority doesn't have adequate technical capacity at the moment.



FLIGHTS

DRUKAIR

Date	Route	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival
September 29	Bangkok to Paro, via Bagdogra	KB 131	06:50 am	10:00 am
September 29	Paro to Bangkok via Guwahati	KB 140	10:50 am	04:15 pm
September 29	Paro to Delhi	KB 204	11:00 am	01:00 pm
September 29	Delhi to Paro	KB 205	02:00 pm	04:50 pm
September 29	Paro to Kathmandu	KB 400	07:00 am	08:05 am
September 29	Kathmandu to Paro	KB 401	08:45 am	10:20 am
September 29	Singapore to Paro, via Kolkata	KB 501	06:30 am	10:25 am
September 29	Paro to Bangkok	KB 128	05:30 pm	09:30 pm
September 29	Bangkok to Paro	KB 129	04:45 am	06:45 am

September 30	Bangkok to Paro, via Guwahati	KB 141	06:50 am	10:15 am
September 30	Paro to Bangkok, via Dhaka	KB 126	10:05 am	03:10 pm
September 30	Paro to Bangkok	KB 128	11:30 am	03:30 pm
September 30	Paro to Kolkata	KB 310	07:20 am	08:20 am
September 30	Paro to Delhi, via Kathmandu	KB 204	08:00 am	10:45 am
September 30	Delhi to Paro, via Kathmandu	KB 205	11:45 am	03:35 pm
September 30	Kolkata to Paro	KB 311	09:00 am	11:00 am
September 30	Bangkok to Paro	KB 129	04:45 am	06:45 am

DOMESTIC

September 29	Paro to Bumthang	KB 1001	10:50 am	11:25 am
September 29	Bumthang to Paro	KB 1002	11:45 am	12:20 pm

Note: All timings in local. Timings are subject to change. Call Drukair toll free No. 1300 for latest flight information.



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AUCTION NOTICE

Bank of Bhutan Limited announces to AUCTION TATA Truck through public auction at 10:00 hours at Old Corporate Office, Norzin Lam, Thimphu.

Particulars	Present Location	Place of auction	Date of auction	Remarks
BP-2- A7763, Model - 2011,	BoBL Parking, Main Branch, Phuentsholing	Old Corporate Office, Norzin Lam, Thimphu	29/10/2013	Running Condition 47020Km

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Management



Fuel Prices

(IN NU)

Dzongkhag	Diesel	Petrol	Kerosene	LPG
Thimphu(DPCL)	52.17	72.00	15.35	504
Mongar	52.02	69.56	16.48	543
Bumthang	52.31	70.05	16.71	535
P/Ling	50.48	69.96	13.86	452

*Prices as of September 27